

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 23, 2001

Contact: Kevin O'Connell  
202-225-6335

### HINCHEY INTRODUCES KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL ACT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) on Tuesday joined U.S. Representative Elton Gallegly (R-CA) in introducing a bill that would award a Korea Defense Service Medal to members of the armed forces who served in Korea after the Korean War ended. Hinchey began working on this bill after a constituent from Ulster County, Robert Provost, pointed out the lack of recognition for these service people.

"These men and women served -and continue to serve- under extremely dangerous conditions," said Hinchey. "I am proud to be playing a role in getting them the recognition they deserve."

More than 40,000 members of the United States armed forces have served on the Korean Peninsula each year since a cease-fire agreement ended the Korean War in July 1953. Since then, there have been more than 40,000 breaches of the cease-fire and 1,239 servicemen and women have died as a direct result their service in Korea.

"After more than 45 years, this medal is long overdue," Provost said upon hearing that the bill had been introduced. "All of the G.I.'s who served in Korea since 1954 are finally being recognized for their service there. I'm grateful to all those involved in getting this bill introduced for us veterans."

Service medals are given to veterans who serve in particular regions during times of hostility or the threat of hostility. The Korea Defense Service Medal Act was introduced with 40 original cosponsors.

-30-